

REMARKS

Claims 116-142 are pending in the present application.

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Snedden for the indication that Claims 116-121, 126, and 129-142 are in condition for allowance.

The rejection of Claims 13-16, 45, and 69 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph (enablement), is obviated by amendment.

Applicants make no statement in regard to the Examiner's asserted lack of enabling support and in no way acquiesce to the same. However, in favor of expedient prosecution, Applicants have canceled Claims 13-16, 45, and 69 (and claims dependent therefrom). As such, this ground of rejection is believed to be moot.

Acknowledgement that this ground of rejection has been withdrawn is requested.

Applicants remind the Examiner that MPEP §821.04 states:

...if applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim *will* be rejoined. (*emphasis added*)

In view of the Examiner's indication that Claims 116-121, 126, and 129-142 are allowable (paragraph 6 on page 4 of the Office Action dated December 23, 2004), Applicants remind the Examiner that withdrawn process Claims 122-125 and 127-128 shall be rejoined and examined. As such, Applicants request that the Examiner rejoin process Claims 122-125 and 127-128. Acknowledgment to this effect is requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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